

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 /069 W

----- 098721

R 190933Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2841

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1834

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON 18 FEB 75 BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: GVN MOVES AGAINST CAMBODIAN DESERTERS AND  
DRAFTDODGERS

REF: FVS 33,975

1. ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROVINCE CHIEFS IN MR4 TO TAKE  
FORCEFUL ACTION, IF NECESSARY, TO APPREHEND NUMEROUS  
DESERTERS AND DRAFT EVADERS BELIEVED TO BE SHELTERING IN  
CAMBODIAN PAGODAS, PARTICULARLY IN VINH BINH AND BA  
XUYEN PROVINCES. THIS PART OF NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN  
DIRECTED BY PRESIDENT AGAINST THOSE EVADING MILITARY SERVICE.

2. PROVINCE CHIEFS IN BOTH PROVINCES TOLD ME ON FEB 17  
THEY HAD RECEIVED ORDERS FROM MR4 COMMANDER ON FEB 14 TO  
ATTEMPT INDUCE DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS TO JOIN  
COLORS. INITIAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PERSUADE  
EVADERS TO DO SO VOLUNTARILY. RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE BEEN  
WARNED THAT CONTINUED HARBORING OF EVADERS WILL NOT BE  
TOLERATED, AND MORE FORCEFUL METHODS WILL FOLLOW IF QUIET  
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PERSUASION NOT SUCCESSFUL.

3. VINH BINH P.C. SAID SOME 250 OF AN ESTIMATED 1200 HAVE TURNED THEMSELVES IN ALREADY. HE HOPEFUL THAT LARGE ENOUGH PORTION OF THOSE REMAIN WILL FOLLOW TO AVOID NEED FOR FORCEFUL ENTRY OF PAGODAS BY SECURITY FORCES. BA XUYEN P.C. LESS OPTIMISTIC. HE CLEARLY FEARS CONFRONTATION IN WHICH RELIABILITY OF HEAVILY CAMBODIAN PROVINCIAL SECURITY FORCES UNCERTAIN.

4. MR4 COMMANDER, MG NGUYEN KHOA NAM, TOLD ME HE WISHES CONTINUE AVOID USE OF FORCE AGAINST HOA HAO AND CAMBODIANS. HOWEVER, P.C. 'S HAVE CLEARLY BEEN GIVEN ORDERS EMANATING FROM PRESIDENCY TO GET TOUGH IF PEACEFUL PERSUASION FAILS AND THEY NOW PREPARING FOR SUCH EVENTUALITY.

5. COMMENT: APPEARS GVN HAS CONCLUDED THAT DECLINE IN COMBAT MANPOWER THROUGH DESERTION AND DRAFT EVASION MUST BE HALTED. ULTIMATELY, THIS COULD BE LIFE AND DEATH ISSUE FOR ARVN. AT PRESENT,

TYPICAL RF/PF COMBAT UNITS IN MOST CONTESTED PROVINCE IN DELTA RUNNING UNDER 50 PERCENT PRESENT FOR DUTY STRENGTH. TYPICAL ARVN INFANTRY BATTALION NOT MUCH STRONGER. IN MANY CASES, POOR PERFORMANCE OF TROOPS CAN

BE TRACED TO UNDERSTRENGTH UNITS WHICH LACK ABILITY CARRY OUT ASSIGNED MISSIONS. LOSS OF TERRITORIAL CONTROL OFTEN ATTRIBUTABLE TO FACT THAT GVN CAN SWEEP THROUGH CONTESTED AREAS, BUT LACKS MANPOWER TO ASSERT SUSTAINED CONTROL. FORTUNATELY, NVA/VC SEEM BE HAVING SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES IN LOCAL RECRUITMENTS TO FILL THEIR DEPLETED

UNITS. PRESENT MODERATE LEVEL OF NVA/VC INITIATED INCIDENTS PROBABLY RESULTS FROM THIS FACT.

MCNAMARA  
UNQUOTE  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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